United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1032
5 December 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Executive Chairman of Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament reports "no progress" in policy of Iraq with regard to weapons sites designated for inspection; "non-cooperation and obstruction continue to be encountered".

- Yugoslav Government calls for "consistent and complete" realization of Geneva Accords, signed on 23 November, as precondition for reinstatement of peace in all parts of Yugoslavia.

- Security Council and General Assembly, meeting concurrently, elect Bola Ajibola of Nigeria to International Court of Justice.

- Secretary-General, in message on occasion of World AIDS Day, warns of "major, far-reaching implications for every society" if problem of pandemic is not addressed in timely manner.

* * *

The Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolf Ekéus, has said that there is "no progress" to report, in the period under review, which would indicate a change of policy on the part of Iraq to "one of candour, transparency and cooperation at all levels".

In his second report to the Security Council, dated 4 December, covering the period since 15 October, Mr. Ekeus said that where the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were acting on their own sources of information regarding possible clandestine conduct of proscribed activities, "non-cooperation and obstruction" continued to be encountered.

He said experience had shown that results could only be achieved when resolute stands were taken in response to challenges by Iraq to the implementation of "various aspects of the mandate of the Special Commission and the IAEA". Such stands, he said, could only be based on the "full support" of the United Nations as a whole and its Member Governments -- support which was "crucial" to the Commission's effectiveness. He pointed to the "difficult issues" that would arise with regard to the Special

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Commission's future monitoring of the destruction and removal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and the facilities for their production.

* * *

The Federal Government of Yugoslavia has called on the parties to the present conflict to abide consistently and completely with the Geneva Accords, signed on 23 November, as a "precondition" for the reinstatement of peace in all parts of that country. The Government said that it was of "utmost priority", at this moment, to create the conditions for the immediate deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping force.

According to a statement transmitted to the President of the Security Council yesterday, the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council said the cease-fire was necessary to avert the war atrocities, destruction, and further loss of life as well as social hardships, which were imminent even without the war.

It emphasized the importance of the present mission of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Cyrus Vance and stressed that the presence of peace-keeping forces would create the conditions for the resumption of The Hague Conference on Yugoslavia, chaired by Lord Carrington, as soon as possible. It also called for a future agreement on the country's functioning in the transitional period in order to define conditions for life and work and security for all property of all citizens in all parts of the country.

The statement was transmitted to the United Nations by the Yugoslav Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Darco Silovic.

* * *

The Security Council, meeting concurrently with the General Assembly, today elected Bola Ajibola (Nigeria) to the International Court of Justice. Mr. Ajibola, a legal practitioner and editor of law journals and reviews, fills a seat left vacant by the death of Judge Taslim Olawale Elias (Nigeria) on 14 August. The term of Mr. Ajibola, who will complete Judge Elias's term, expires on 5 February 1994.

Elections to the Court require an absolute majority of votes in both the Security Council and the General Assembly.

The Assembly, at a similar meeting, elected Mr. Adjibola on the second ballot.

* * *

The United Nations Headquarters was observing today World AIDS Day -- traditionally observed on 1 December -- with a panel-meeting of distinguished officials to discuss the economic, social and human costs of the pandemic.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said in a message, delivered on his behalf by Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social

(more)

Affairs, Rafeeuddin Ahmed, that AIDS continued its spread and had affected millions of people around the world. If the tide of the disease was not turned soon, the loss of millions of the most productive members of society could have incalculable economic, social and political consequences in many countries. Regrettably, he said, some of the same factors that quietly fueled the pandemic in the first place were still impeding prevention and control efforts. More needed to be done in order to overcome "this global problem" to avoid "major, far-reaching implications for every society".

* *** *